



Perspectives on Sex

Read the following statements about sexual relationships as spoken by teenagers. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, write a statement of your own that summarizes your views on the subject.

Amy, Lauren, and Larissa

Amy: I think a lot of guys feel like they have to have sex—like if they don't, they're not a real man.

Lauren: I think it's because of their fathers and from sports and coaches. They all want their boys to be big men, or else they think they're failures.

Amy: And all it means to them is they got something they wanted, like winning a football game or winning a prize. And then all they want to do is boast about it.

Larissa: When a guy has sex, everyone thinks he's cool, like he's got it all. But if a girl does it she's just a slut. It's such a double standard.

Lauren: It can really be intimidating, this male image. You start feeling like all that guys want from us is sex. They don't even care about you as a person.

A Sixteen-year-old Girl

When I started high school I didn't understand much about sex. I had never even been kissed, and never really thought about it, but in high school there was a lot of pressure about having sex. I started to feel like I must be unattractive, like I was the only one not "doing it," and I decided to change all that.

I'm still a virgin, but I've let many guys go pretty far with me because I wanted them to want me. But it started getting to me emotionally—I felt such a lot of guilt. In my own mind I started to think of myself as a slut.

Now I know that what I really want is to be romantically involved with someone—not just physically involved. Just being physical—that just ends up hurting me, giving me an empty feeling.

Angela

When I was in tenth grade I went out with this guy for a while. All he did was push me to have sex. Whenever we were together, that's all he talked about—sex, sex, sex. But I didn't want to have sex. I wasn't ready. My girlfriends would say to me, "Are you crazy? Why don't you want to have sex?" They all wanted to have sex.

Even if my friends think I'm crazy, I want to wait. I just don't think I could handle sex in a relationship right now. Not at this age. Don't misunderstand me—I'm interested in sex, I want to have sex, but not now. I want to wait till I'm married.

I've come close to having sex. Especially one time, when I was totally afraid the guy would reject me if I didn't. But I walked away and told him I wasn't ready. I had to do what was right for me, even if he rejected me.

I figure that if I do it with one guy, he'll tell other guys, and the word will be out. Then when anyone asks you out, you always have that question at the back of your mind—does he like me, or is he just hoping to have sex with me?